Expansion of Single Laned NHs

273. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of national highways having only single lane;

(b) the percentage of these to the total number of highways; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to expand these highways ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) National Highways Nos. 1B, 31A, 31B, 51, 53, 54, 54A and 54B have some single lane sections.

(b) Single lane sections are about 15% of the total network.

(c) The widening of National Highways is taken up in phases depending upon the inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Vector Borne Diseases

274. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any arrangements to fight the menace of mosquitoes for prevention/control of vector borne diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which these arrangements are effective in Delhi, particularly in Karol Bagh, East Delhi and Outer Delhi Parliamentary Constituencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) A Centrally sponsored programme namely, National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) is in operation throughout the country to control the vector borne diseases like Malaria, Filaria, Kala-azar, Dengue and Japanese Encephalitis.

The said Programme is implemented through the State Govts. on a 50 : 50 cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States. The Malaria control activities include blood smear collection and examination, early treatment of positive cases, killing of mosquito larvae through use of appropriate insecticides, larvicides in rural areas and JJ clusters.

(c) The control measures are implemented by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi through the Municipal Corporation, Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council. There has been a general increase in reporting of Malaria cases in Delhi during 1996 including in Karol Bagh, East Delhi and Outer Delhi. The Govt. of NCT has been given an action plan to step up surveillance activities and mount preventive measures well before the next transmission session.

[Translation]

Health Services

275. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced any grant-in-aid scheme for the extension of health services in the rural areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the grants provided to Bihar under this scheme during the last three years; and

(d) the guidelines laid down by the Government to provide financial assistance to the voluntary organisations under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No new scheme of grant-in-aid for the extension of Health Services has been introduced especially in the rural areas of Bihar. However, there is already a scheme namely 'Special Health Scheme for Rural Areas' under which grant-in-aid is provided to voluntary organisations for setting up of new hospitals in rural areas of Bihar.

(b) Under the said Special Health Scheme for Rural Areas the maximum ceiling of grant is Rs. 8 lakhs for construction of hospital building, O.T., dwelling units, cost of land including electricity and water installation charges; and Rs. 4 lakhs for purchase of equipments. The purpose of scheme is to encourage voluntary organisations in setting up new hospital/Dispensaries in rural organisations in setting up new hospital/dispensaries in rural areas where the existing medical care facilities are inadequate.

(c) No grant-in-aid has been provided to any voluntary organisations under this scheme for extension of health services in Bihar during the last three years.

(d) The guidelines laid down by the Government for Voluntary Organisations to be eligible for financial assistance under the Special Health Scheme for Rural Areas are as under :

A voluntary organisation/institution that fulfils the following criteria shall be eligible for grants under the scheme :

(i) It must be registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or any other Statute.

(ii) It should be of an all India character or of State level importance or should be engaged in doing pioneering and innovative work.

(iii) It should be non-official and non-proprietory management.

(iv) It should not be run for profit to any individual or group of individuals.